

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 45, and 47 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows (see the accompanying marked-up claims):

1. (Amended) A composition comprising:

- (a) (i) a quaternary ammonium biocide having the formula



- (ii) a polymeric quaternary ammonium biocide, or

- (iii) a mixture thereof; and

- (b) (i) a ketone acid or salt thereof,

- (ii) an aromatic carboxylic acid or a salt thereof, or

- (iii) a mixture thereof,

wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are independently unsubstituted or hydroxy substituted linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl,  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_mCH_2CH_2OH$ , or  $-(CH_2CHCH_3O)_mCH_2CHCH_3OH$  where  $m$  is 1 to 10;  $R^3$  is a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl, ethylbenzyl, methylnaphthyl, or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  alkyl;  $R^4$  is  $-R^5(O)_n(C_6H_4)R^6$  where  $n$  is 0 or 1;  $R^5$  is a substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl or  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkoxyalkyl;  $R^6$  is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$  alkyl; and  $X^-$  is an anion.

45. (Amended) A method of inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on a

substrate comprising applying an effective amount of the composition of claim 1 to the substrate.